

WAYNE, PA—Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined nearly 200 students, parents, and teachers to celebrate the 2009 7th Congressional District Art Competition held at the Wayne Art Center on Monday, April 20, 2009. An expert panel of professional artists evaluated pieces submitted by high school students from across the District and selected a winner and runner up in eight categories. Jessica Jahnle, a junior at Episcopal Academy, earned “Best in Show” of the district level competition. Jessica and a guest will be flown by Southwest Airlines to Washington, D.C., to attend a June 24 ceremony honoring winners from across the country; she will also be eligible to apply for a \$1,500 art school scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design. Her winning piece, “Kids on the Beach,” will be professionally framed free of charge by Mr. Brad Montgomery of Montgomery Galleries and will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

“I am overawed by the talent on display here tonight,” said Congressman Sestak. “Art has always been a reflection of our culture and our society, and we must make it a priority in our federal, state, and school budgets. In a time when we are preoccupied by economic challenges at home and wars abroad, we cannot neglect the arts that are the spirit and inspiration of our culture and society. We all need to work toward more investment in the arts, just as John F. Kennedy suggested when he said, ‘I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well.’”

Winners of the 2009 7th Congressional District Art Competition

Best in Show

Jessica Jahnle

“Kids on the Beach” The Episcopal Academy, grade 11

Computer Generated Art

First Prize: Julia Tessler

“Animal Kingdom” Upper Darby High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Chris Del Roccili

“Untitled” Strath Haven High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Kellie Henry

“Untitled” Strath Haven High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Truong Nguyen

“Watching” Upper Darby High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Katie Endres

“Untitled” Strath Haven High School, grade 11

Drawing

First Prize: Jayne Levenberg

“3 AM” Radnor High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Megan Brown

“Prowl” Cardinal O’Hara High School, grade 11

Honorable Mention: Nicole Korejwo

“Intrigue” Ridley High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Christopher Lowmaster

“Tricycle” Ridley High School, grade 12

Painting

First Prize: Jessica Jahnle

“Beach Leaping” The Episcopal Academy, grade 11

Honorable Mention: Emily Stern

“Culinary Reflections in the Art Room” Ridley High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Kristen McDevitt

“In Loving Memory” Ridley High School, grade 11

Mixed Media

First Prize: Louise Lee

“Gold Portrait” Radnor High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Gabrielle Ventura

“Redefined” Garnet Valley, grade 10

Photography

First Prize: Gabrielle Intenzo

“Untitled” Garnet Valley High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Joshua Hopkins

“2008” Garnet Valley High School

Printmaking

First Prize: John Nitz

“Crash” Upper Darby High School, grade 12

Honorable Mention: Hailey Carlson

“Castle” Upper Darby High School, grade 12

The judges of the competition were:

Georganna Lessen, Instructor, Wayne Art Center

Born in Seoul, Korea, Georganna graduated from Villanova University and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She has exhibited extensively in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. Georganna is represented by Rosenfeld gallery in Philadelphia and Gallery DePaul in Lancaster.

Barbara Suplee, Associate Professor, University of the Arts

Barbara Suplee is Associate Professor, Department of Art Education and Art Therapy, at University of the Arts. Her educational background includes a BFA in Painting and Drawing, West Chester State University; an M.Ed. with a concentration in Photography, Tyler School of Art, Temple University; three years study at the Barnes Foundation; and a Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University. As Co-founder of the National Art Association’s Special Needs in Art Education Issues Group, Barbara gives presentations and workshops at the regional, state, and national level.

Bill Valerio, Assistant Director, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Bill Valerio is Assistant Director for Administration at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Having completed his PhD in art history at Yale University in 1996, he became Curator at the Queens Museum in New York in 1997. He organized many exhibitions across a range of modern and contemporary subjects, some international in scope, and has written for numerous publications, including Art in America. He completed his MBA at Wharton in 2004, and started working in the administration of the Philadelphia Museum of Art that year, with responsibilities that range across a variety of operational departments and government affairs.

Congressman Sestak thanked the Trustees, Management and Staff of the Wayne Art Center for exhibiting the 2009 7th Congressional Art Competition. Established in 1930 and the first art center on the Main Line, the Wane Art Center provides the following: Instruction in all phases of fine arts, selective crafts, music and drama with particular attention to the visual arts; exhibitions, performances and special events for artists and crafts people of the greater Main Line Area; outreach instructional programs for persons with special needs; and a gathering place for artists to share and lend support for improving the cultural climate.

Each year more than 4,000 students register for more than 400 classes and workshops and more than 1,500 children enroll in the Center's Summer Art Camp. The Center services students from the Greater Main Line Area including Delaware, Chester and Montgomery Counties. In addition, the Center's Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery presents 10-12 exhibitions each year, highlighting the work of local, regional and national artists. The adjoining Gallery Shop provides a venue in which artist can sell their work and community members can purchase unique crafts. Wayne Art Center also hosts Craft Forms, a national juried exhibition dedicated to enhancing the public's awareness of contemporary crafts.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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